

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 10, 2013

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Ben Moore, Selectman Representative
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative
Pat Collins
Victor DeMarco
Richard Desrosiers
Joe Grzybowski
Brian Lapham
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
Michael Plouffe
Diandra Sanphy

Excused

Richard Reniere

Absent

Precinct Representative

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She said this meeting was a Public Hearing for the School District and Town Special Money Articles.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee gave self-introductions.

Hampton School District

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90, and Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90.

Article 1 – Operating Budget - \$19,289,990

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lunney went through the various aspects of the Operating Budget. He explained that some increases are due to contractual obligations. This budget is a 2.87% increase over last year. Mr. Lunney explained that there is a gross appropriation received through the Food Service program. The law requires that this amount (\$600,000) must be in the budget even though it is offset by revenues. Therefore there will be no tax impact for that program.

There was no public comment.

Article 2 – Long Term Maintenance - \$300,000

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 3 - Special Education Expendable Trust Fund - \$75,000

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Superintendent Murphy explained that this fund was voted in by the public in 2010 as a safety net in case of the necessity for out of district placements. It is capped at \$300,000 so if this article passes there will not be another article next year.

Michael Pierce, 16 Hedman Avenue, said he was not in favor of funds being put away for an event that may never happen.

Article 4 – Centre School Addition - \$859,000

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lunney explained that additional space is needed in the Centre School building for the developmental preschool and for the music program. This will be a two classroom addition. Mr. Lunney talked about the benefits of the preschool program and how it saves money for the District by avoiding out of district placements.

Mr. Pierce said he felt other possibilities for space should be considered, possibly at Marston or Hampton Academy. Superintendent Murphy said all facilities were reviewed and this would not be feasible.

Article 5 – Placement of Town Clock on Centre School Property

This article has been recommended by the School Board. The Budget Committee did not vote on this article because there is no money involved.

There was no public comment.

Article 6 – Child Benefit Services to Sacred Heart School - \$39,500

This article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mark Willis, Principal of Sacred Heart School, explained that this money covers the services of a school nurse and textbooks. It represents 3% of their total budget.

Chairman Latimer asked the Committee if there were any articles they wished to re-address. The consensus of the Committee was that there were not.

Chairman Latimer thanked Superintendent Murphy and Mr. Lunney.

Town of Hampton

Article 4 – Operating Budget - \$24,599,427

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Moore said that this article is less than the default budget of \$24,603,429.

Chairman Latimer thanked the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and department heads for their fine work on this budget.

There was no public comment.

Article 6 – Firefighting Apparatus Capital Reserve fund - \$150,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 7 – DPW Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$300,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Pierce said he was very much in favor of this article.

Article 8 – Public Works Capital Equipment - \$190,000

This article was recommended by the Board of Selectmen and was not recommended by the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 9 – Wastewater Collection System I & I Study - \$100,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 10 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Study - \$90,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 11 – Construct Sewer & Drain Building & Vehicle & Equipment Wash Down Facility - \$500,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Pierce said he was very much opposed to this article because it will raise the tax rate significantly. He also said he felt it could be done for less money.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, said that 10 years ago the former Public Works Director had requested a wash down facility because of EPA regulations. It is time to do this.

Article 12 – Lafayette & Winnacunnet Intersection Improvements - \$510,000

This article was recommended by the Board of Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee.

Mr. Rice said he was surprised that the Budget Committee voted against this article. It will cost much more if it is put off to the future. In the past a local business owner offered to improve that intersection and was turned down by the Town. In this case the Town would be paying only 10% of the cost (\$64,000) because of Federal and State funds. If this is put off, it will probably cost the Town \$680,000 rather than \$64,000 now. Mr. Rice asked the Committee to reconsider.

Mr. Pierce said he feels this intersection is unique and should not be changed.

Rick Griffin, Ocean Blvd., said he felt it is time something is done at this intersection. There have been problems for many years.

Article 13 – Demolish Old Court House - \$75,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 14 – Recreation Special Revenue Fund - \$4,800

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 15 – Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 17 – Appropriation from Cable TV Special Revenue Fund - \$100,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 19 – Conservation Land Acquisition Fund - \$10,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 20 – Human Services Agencies - \$170,651

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 29 – Christmas Parade – 3,000

This article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Article 31 – Improvements to Skateboard Park

This article was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen or by the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

BUDGET COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION

The Budget Committee Business Session convened at 8:31 p.m.

Chairman Latimer asked the Committee if anyone had a question about any warrant article brought up at this session.

Regarding Article 12, Ms. Nickerson said she agreed with comments made by the public and would like the Committee to re-address this article.

Mr. Lapham said the charter of the Budget Committee is to look at an item and decide if it is prudent. In this case there were serious questions about the sewer issue in conjunction with this article. Chairman Latimer said the problem seems to lie with the question of what lies below the road. The pipes will be disturbed and the Town could be in jeopardy if all did not go well.

Keith Noyes, Public Works Director, said he is totally supportive of this project, but not without the sewer problems being addressed. However, there is presently \$100,000 encumbered for sewer repairs.

Ms. Sanphy said there is an underlying structure which may not be safe. She said Mr. Welch had said if there is a problem there is money available to take care of it, but she would not want to rely on that. Plans need to be made in a correct manner. Gas and water lines could also be an issue.

It was the consensus of the Committee that there were no warrant articles that needed to be re-addressed.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2013.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (DeMarco, Lapham, Nickerson). Motion passed.

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Chairman Latimer said the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. The Deliberative Session will be held Saturday, February 2, 2013, in the auditorium at Winnacunnet High School.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary